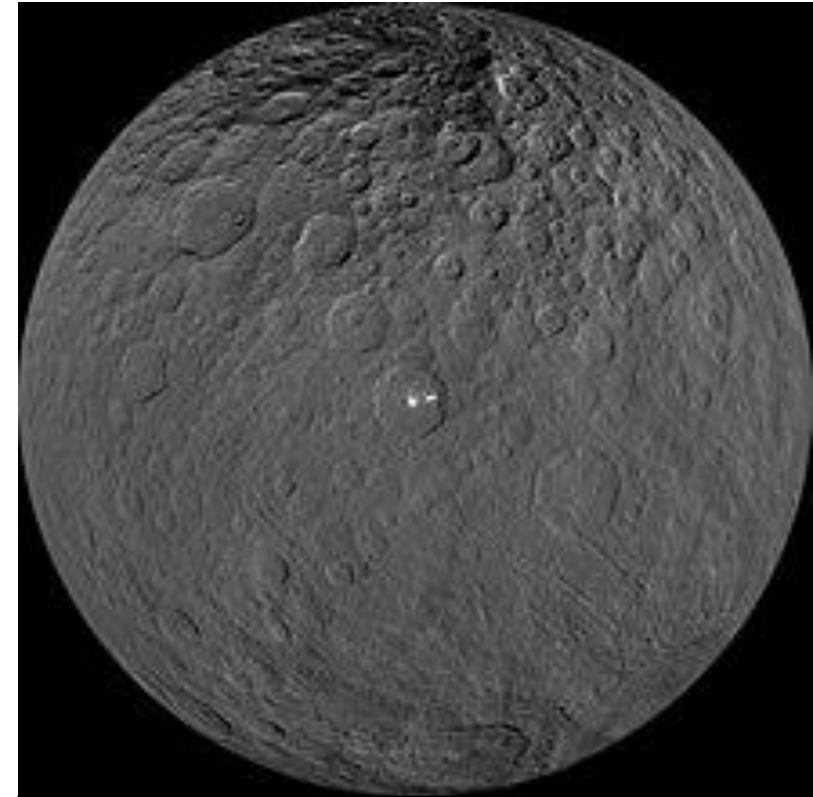


May 2019 Sky Events

Dwarf Planet Ceres is in Great Observing Position this Month

Asteroid 1 Ceres reaches opposition (opposite the Earth from the Sun and closest for the year) on the night of May 28-29. At opposition Ceres will be a magnitude 7 object (requiring optical aid to see), located some 163 million miles from Earth.

Ceres, the largest asteroid and the only one to make itself round, is the nearest, smallest and brightest “[dwarf planet](#)”. Located in the asteroid belt, between Mars and Jupiter, Ceres was the first asteroid to be discovered. On the night of January 1, 1801, Italian astronomer Guiseppe Piazzi initially spotted this object using a telescope at Palermo’s Royal Observatory. Ceres gets its name from the Roman goddess of grains and agriculture – also the origin of the word “cereal”.



NASA’s Dawn spacecraft image of Ceres

May 2019 Sky Events

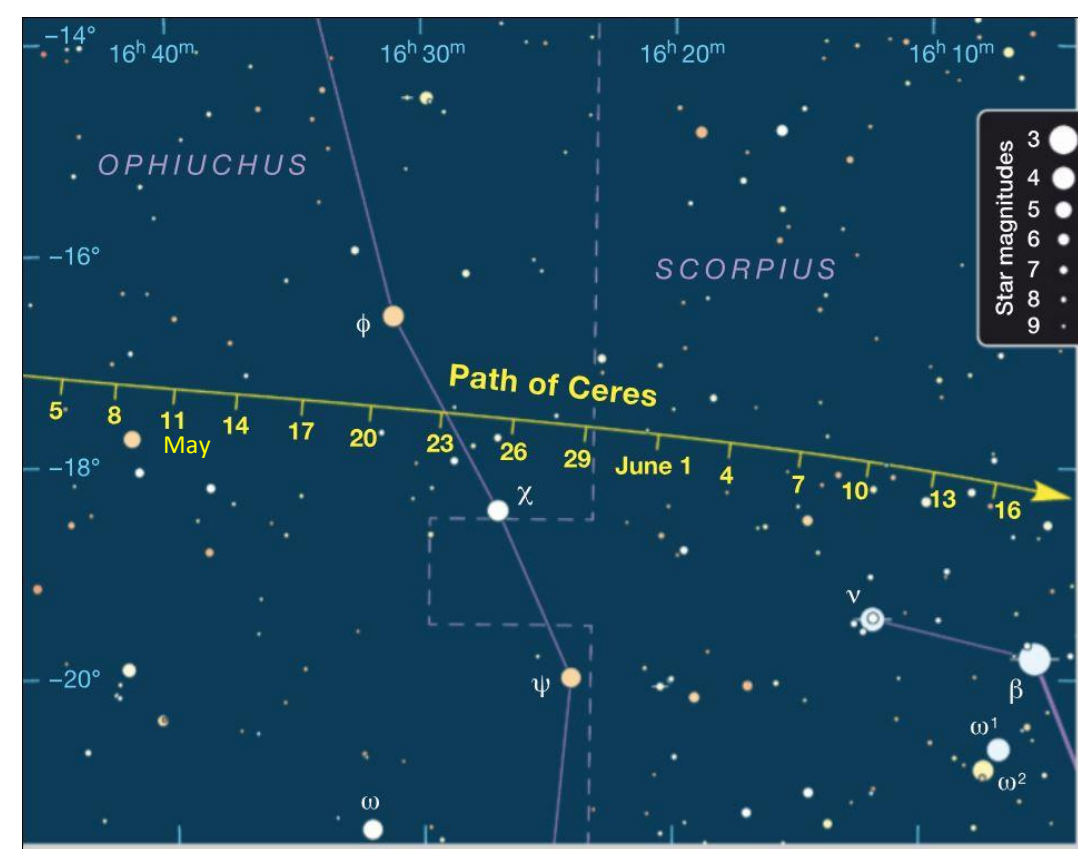
Dwarf Planet Ceres is in Great Observing Position this Month

Locate and observe Ceres, this month and into June, using a telescope and the charts to the left. Ceres can be found on the Ophiuchus/Scorpius constellation boundary.

While observing Ceres, consider that this round rock is 585 miles across, orbits the Sun once every 4.6 Earth years, and was visited and imaged by NASA's Dawn spacecraft in 2015.

If you have never observed sunlight reflected off an asteroid or dwarf planet, now is the time to make that happen!

Charts courtesy of [Sky & Telescope](https://www.skyandtelescope.com)



▲► Asteroid 1 Ceres stands approximately 20° above the south-southeastern horizon on the night of May 28–29. Look for a line of 5 stars with magnitudes ranging from 7.2 to 9.4 northeast of Chi Ophiuchi. The line points to a 9th-magnitude star that lies close to the asteroid's path. Ceres will be less than ½° from that star on May 28th at 10 p.m. local daylight-saving time. The chart above shows Ceres' path, with tick marks indicating the asteroid's position at 0^h UT every three days.

